

March 17, 2008

Obey in balsam lake for update on after school program

BALSAM LAKE, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Balsam Lake today for an update on the Unity School District's Learning, Enrichment and Discovery (L.E.A.D.) program. Obey secured \$430,554 in federal funds last year for the CESA 11 After-School Consortium of which Unity School District is a member.

"Research shows that when students have a place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, they also get a better education. That's why we pushed for more funding for after-school centers in the budget and why I asked for the funds to help keep programs like this going in Wisconsin," Obey said.

"I'm glad to be here today to see first hand how things are going here in Balsam Lake."

"For what we spend on the war in Iraq we could completely fund a program like this every minute," Obey added. "That just goes to show you how much we could be doing here at home if we weren't stuck in this misbegotten war."

The federal funds help the School District continue with programs designed to increase student opportunities and parental involvement, including:

- **Enrichment and Remediation After School Programs** - coursework twice-weekly after school hours for children 2nd

-5th

grade.

- **Family Literacy Nights** - Encouraging support for literacy and interaction between family members were two of the goals of this program. Unity Literacy Nights were offered monthly and themes included many different science and math themes which incorporated literacy.

A few examples are: Exploring the Arctic (science night) and Math Magica (math night).

- **S.T.A.R.T.** - Middle School - Students and Teachers After-school Reinforcement Together. Based upon the philosophy that students must master certain skills before moving on to more challenging learning activities, the START program is designed to meet student needs immediately after the end of each quarter.

The focus of the START program is the immediate remediation of skills to insure the success of every student.

- **Wellness** - Students in grades 5 - 8 are encouraged to join and attend the Healthy Living Club held from 3:30 - 5:30 twice monthly. Activities were designed using the Wisconsin Nutrition and Physical Activity State Plan.

This plan provides a framework to help students make healthy food choices, be physically active and achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

- **School Year Saturday and Evening** - Events to Increase Parental Involvement. Including the Teddy Bear Band and Love and Logic parenting classes.

- **Summer B.L.A.S.T. Program** - Provides a variety of summer field trips to provide rich learning experiences.

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